

PRESS OFFICE

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Contact: Tiffani S. Clements (202) 401-0035
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

Small Businesses, Industry Leaders and Government Officials Receive Recognition for Superior Achievement in Federal Contracting to Kick Off *SBA Expo 05*

2 Pennsylvania Firms Named National Prime Contractor and Subcontractor of the Year during National Small Business Week

WASHINGTON – Two small business contractors, both from Pennsylvania, were named by the U.S. Small Business Administration as National Prime Contractor of the Year and National Subcontractor of the Year at a luncheon held today at the Hilton Washington Hotel, kicking off *SBA Expo '05*.

Small business owners from across the country are in Washington, D.C. this week to participate in Business Matchmaking, networking, informative business sessions, and celebrations and award ceremonies honoring outstanding small businesses at *SBA Expo '05*, co-sponsored by SCORE, "Counselors to America's Small Business."

The ***Small Business Prime Contractor*** and ***Small Business Subcontractor of the Year*** awards honor small businesses that have provided the government and industry with outstanding goods and services either as prime contractors or as subcontractors. The recipients are:

- For the Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year Award, Mr. Robert L. Rosania, CEO of Ehmke Manufacturing Company, Inc. of Philadelphia, PA.); and
- For the Small Business Subcontractor of the Year Award, Mr. William Kuchera, President and CEO of Kuchera Defense Systems of Windber, PA.

"To kick off our National Small Business Week celebration, I would like to recognize these small businesses, industry leaders and government officials for their outstanding contributions in the federal contracting marketplace," said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto. "It's because of all of their contributions that small businesses are continuing to grow and create jobs, fueling the nation's economy."

The agency also recognized several other commercial contractors, federal agencies and private sector organizations from across the country for their outstanding contributions in the federal contracting arena. The winners represent a diverse cross-section of American small businesses and provide a wide array of services to the government including: deployment of electronic systems to counter improvised explosive devices in Iraq and providing large canvas tarpaulins to the military and defense contractors to help ensure the safety and survival of American soldiers in Iraq.

The awards recognize these businesses and organizations for their commitment to providing contracting and subcontracting opportunities to small, women-owned and small disadvantaged businesses. The *SBA Expo 05* will also feature a full day of Business Matchmaking, a program which pairs small businesses or “sellers” with government and corporate executives or “buyers” interested in procuring from small businesses.

Other federal contracting awards included:

Dwight D. Eisenhower Award for Excellence, recognizing large prime contractors that have excelled in their utilization of small businesses as suppliers and subcontractors. The recipients are:

- Mr. James Berry, President of Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control of Grand Prairie, TX;
- Mr. A.E. Velez, General Manager of IAP World Services Inc., of Fort Gordon, GA; and
- Dr. Jeffrey Wadsworth, Laboratory Director for UT-Battelle, Oak Ridge National Laboratory of Oak Ridge, TN.

Gold Star Award, recognizing the exemplary performance of federal agencies and their dedicated personnel who carry out the aggressive goals and strategic initiatives that help ensure a role for small business in the federal marketplace. The recipients are:

- Valerie T. Hayes, acting director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization;
- James E. House, director of the Department of Agriculture, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization;
- Durie White, director of the Department of State, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization;
- Tracey Pinson, director of the Department of the Army, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; and
- Kevin Boshears, director of the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization.

Frances Perkins Vanguard Award, honoring government and industry for excellence in the use of women-owned small businesses as prime contractors and subcontractors.

The recipients are:

- Michael K. Robinson, Program Director of Global Supplier Diversity for IBM Corporation of Boulder, CO; and
- Ralph C. Thomas III, Assistant Administrator for the Office of Small Disadvantaged Business Utilization, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Business owners, business organizations, other individuals and the news media can register for *SBA Expo '05* events online at www.sba.gov/expo. A list of all award winners from this year's conference and expo can be found on the Web site.

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